



The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's **EXCITER**

GET INVOLVED

- RARS General Membership meeting: **Second Tuesday** of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night except Saturday @ 8 p.m. on 146.640.
- The RARS Technical & Trader's net: Saturdays @ 8:00 PM on 146.64.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the **third Tuesday** of each month.
- On the **fourth Tuesday** of every month, in-person meeting at Ridge Road Baptist Church where there will be project tables, demos, snacks, and socializing.



PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

Interested in helping? Visit
<https://www.rars.org/public-service.php>

frequently for our ham public service schedule.

RARS General Meeting

Date: November 11, 2025

Topic: DXing from the other end

The improbable story of VP5M

Presenter: Jim Jordan, K4QPL

Where: Ridge Road Baptist Church

Time: In-Person and Zoom Meeting at 7:30 PM, [More info at RARS.org](https://www.rars.org)

RARS In Person Gathering

Date: November 25, 2025

Where: Ridge Road Baptist Church

Time: 7:00 PM

In-person Gathering at Ridge Road Baptist Church where there will be project tables, demos, snacks, and socializing.

RARS Officers

PRESIDENT

Fin Gold
NC4FG
nc4fgfin@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Chuck Till
K4RGN
k4rgn@outlook.com

SECRETARY

Julie Royster
KT4JR
919-782-1624
KT4JR@arrl.net

TREASURER

Greg Seamster
KE4PAX
919.859.0029
KE4PAX@arrl.net



The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the amateur radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic needs; to educate members in radio technique, and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Regular dues for licensed amateurs are \$18 per year. (From July 1 through June 30.) Additional licensed immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed full-time students and licensed seniors 60 and over are \$12 per year. Unlicensed individuals may become associate members for \$9 per year. Applications for membership are available from the treasurer or on the RARS web site.

<https://www.rars.org>

Exciter

The Exciter is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The Exciter welcomes articles, advertisements, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor. The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces. The submission deadline for each month's Exciter is the Saturday that is ten days before the general meeting. All submissions must be final. Drafts are not accepted.

The views expressed in the Exciter are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

Tom Lewis, N4TL, editor (editor@rars.org)

Exciter President's Message for November 2025



The RARS Board of Directors consists of four officers, chairs of standing committees, and three directors at large. Their volunteer leadership is really important for the operations of the club, our meetings, events, and activities. Each of these positions requires election by vote of a majority of full members in attendance at the election meeting.

We'll hold our election for the 2026 Board of Directors at the November 11th club meeting. The nominating committee presented the [slate of nominees](#) at the October meeting. The President, Secretary, and all chair positions are up for election this year. The committee did a great job of finding nominees that will help the club continue our current programs and move forward with new ideas!

A big "Thank you!" to all those who volunteered on the Board this year and to those stepping up to lead in the coming year!

Additional nominations from the floor may be made before or at the November meeting. Members may nominate themselves or another member. The only requirement is one year of full membership in the club.

Please attend the November 11th meeting in-person or on Zoom for this election (and the interesting program: "DXing from the other end"). It is one of the more important meetings of the year for the governance of the club for the next year. Come help elect your new leaders!

Exciter President's Message for November 2025, continued

Upcoming Event

JARSFest on November 16th

The 36th Annual JARSFest 2025 is set for November 16th at The American Legion Complex in Benson, NC. Setup starts at 6am and the doors open at 8am. Visit the [JARSFest website](#) to purchase your Indoor Tables, Out Door Tables, Admission Tickets, and additional Raffle Tickets. The Johnston Amateur Radio Society looks forward to seeing you there.

Volunteer to Help

JARS members help with RARSfest every year. We need to help them too. Here is a link to the [JARSFest 2025 Volunteer Signup](#).

73,

Fin Gold, NC4FG

President

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

October 14, 2025 RARS meeting

President Fin Gold, NC4FG, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. He reminded Zoom participants of a few notes about using Zoom. See the minutes for all the details during the meeting on [page 24](#).



Fin Gold, NC4FG, starting the meeting



Door prize winners, left to right.

Mike Barts, N4GU; Gerry Agliata, W2GLA; Robert McCoy

October 14, 2025 RARS meeting, continued



Alex Kowalewski, KR4ESQ.

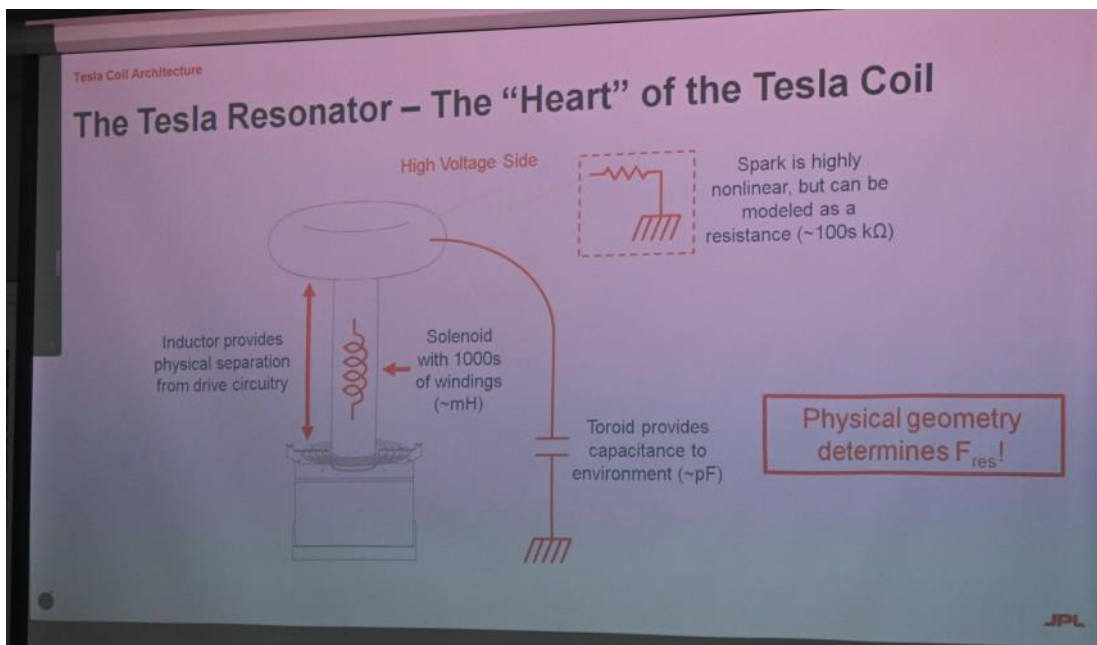
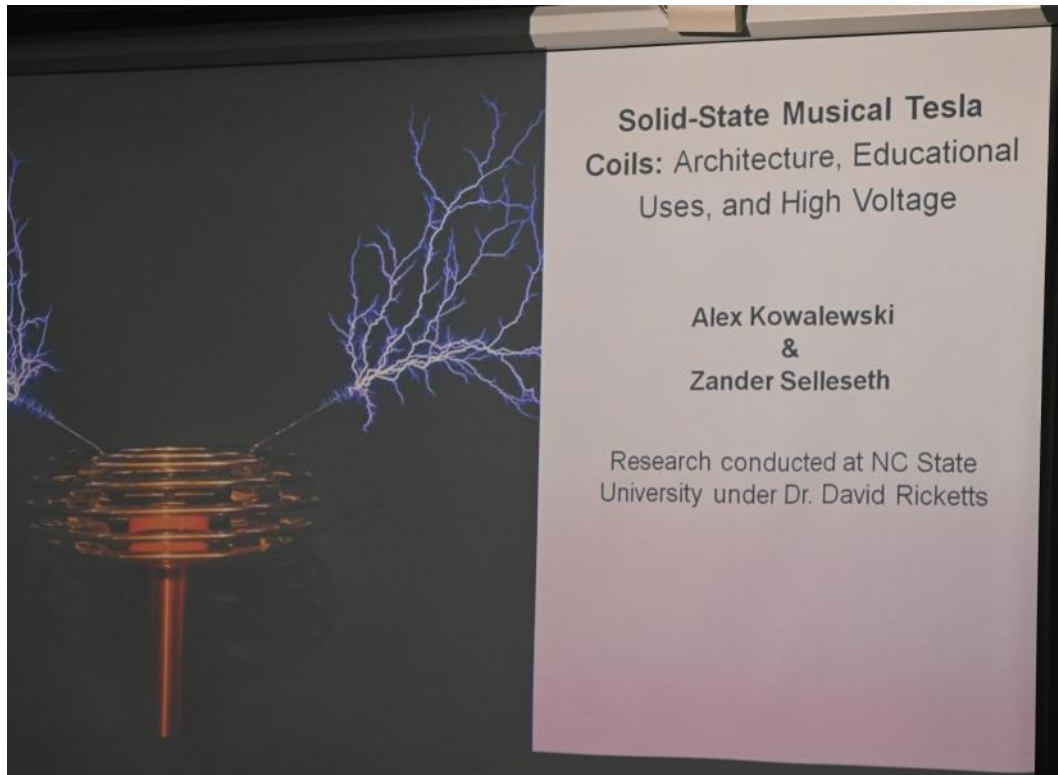
Solid-State Musical Tesla Coils:
Architecture, Educational Uses,
and High Voltage

The full presentation is on the RARS website.

[https://www.rars.org/
meeting_presentations.php](https://www.rars.org/meeting_presentations.php)



October 14, 2025 RARS meeting, continued

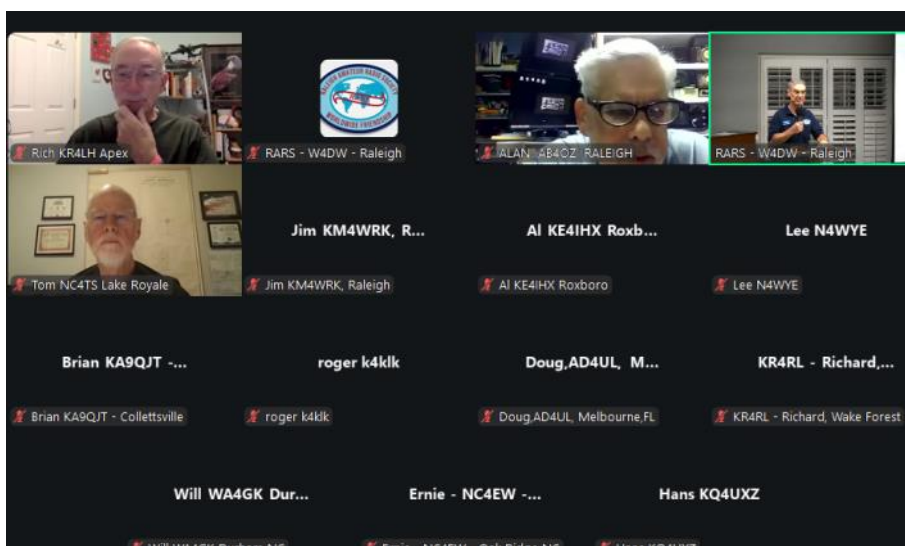


Two slides from the presentation

October 14, 2025 RARS meeting, continued

Full Name	Call Sign	Full Name	Call Sign
Alex Kowalewski	KR4ESQ	Kim Johnson	KZ4UN
Barry Wheeler	K9IUT	Mahesh B	NOCALL
Brian Cullinan	KR4GYQ	Michael Johnson	KZ4LY
Charles Swindell	WB4DCM	Michael North	KK4EIB
Christine North	KR4ANI	Mike Barts	N4GU
Chuck North	WJ4A	Mike Joondeph	N1JDW
Chuck Till	K4RGN	Murray Merner	K4MHM
Dale Jones	WA4JCK	Neal Aflow	NOCALL
Dave Thomas	K4SAN	Nick Baker	W4NAB
Dennis Keith	NC4DK	Nick Maier	NOCALL
Dennis Mason	WZ0Q	Ralph Selmont	KQ4RZI
Dennis McBride	KR4DZA	Richard Kroeger	N1FUA
Devin Hedge	KN4FVH	Robert McCoy	NOCALL
Fin Gold	NC4FG	Ryan Reed	N7RYN
Gerald Agliata	W2GLA	Stephen Haffly	NY4NC
Greg Seamster	KE4PAX	Steve Berry	N3FF
Jay Gilleece	KQ4PSK	Tadd Torborg	KA2DEW
Joe Haggerty	N4BJH	Tom Lewis	N4TL
Joe Spratt	KR4DIN	Tony O'Connor	K1OC
John Hollowell	K4JAH	Virginia Barnes	NOCALL
Josh Kurland	KR4BTW	Wilbur Goss	WD4RDT
Julie Royster	KT4JR	Will Jaber	WY5L

44 People attended in person



44 People attended in person plus 18 on Zoom, 62 total



Hamfest Hotline November 2025

On October 16th and 20th, I helped man the Ham Radio Exhibit at the North Carolina State Fair. I brought about 100 promotional postcards, and they were all picked up! I love spreading the word about our hamfest! I'm also always amazed and saddened at how many NC hams have never heard of The Raleigh Hamfest. If you are a member of any other amateur radio clubs or have a friend in another club, please share our website to spread the word.

You can stay updated on our April 4, 2026, event by sending an email to **rarsfest@rars.org** to join our mailing list. I won't clog your inbox with spam; from late December through April 4th, you'll receive no more than 6-8 emails, pinkie promise!

The Stone Mountain Hamfest, November 1st & 2nd, in Snellville, Georgia, a suburb of Atlanta, was the first one I attended in 2021 to learn how to run a hamfest. After touring the boneyard and buildings, and taking oodles of notes and photos, the Chair was nice enough to spend at least an hour answering my (many) questions. Or maybe he was tired and just wanted to get off his feet...

It's between 5-6 hours away, and if you are reading this and are considering going, you can get to know them here. Note the number and quality of commercial dealers in attendance, including a couple who can't attend The Raleigh Hamfest, due to scheduling conflicts. Check out the floor plan for commercial dealers and clubs here. And I am aware they misspelled our name. They are working on fixing that, but they don't have K1OC as a webmaster!

JARSfest, 2025, is Sunday, November 16th, down in Benson. It's not too far, and they run a nice hamfest. Not only should you attend, but please consider volunteering to help them, as RARSfest is heavily dependent on their assistance. They are also a place where you can get a new or replacement badge on site through The Ham Badgers. They have the RARS logo! You can order now and pick up your shiny new badge at JARSfest! For any JARSFEST PRE-ORDERS, use Coupon Code : JARSFEST2025 for a shipping discount. Good for pickup at JARSfest ONLY! Until 11/13/2025

73, Nancy Torborg KB2TNR, Hamfest Chair.

RARS MONTHLY SUPPER , IHOP RESTAURANT OCTOBER 21, 2025

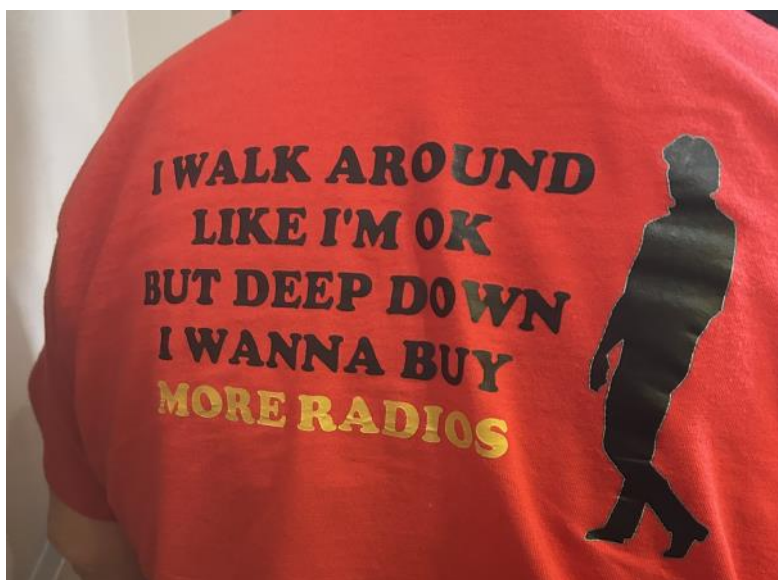


Names clockwise around the table,

Eugene Nagy; Andrea Buttine; Chris Buttine, KC1GN; Chuck Littlewood, K4HF; Dennis Mason, WZ0Q; Fin Gold, NC4FG; Bob Chew, K4YXM; John Honeycutt, N8ZU; Robert McCoy; Ken Latchum, AD4GX.

Tom, N4TL taking the picture

Dennis Mason, WZ0Q
wore a shirt on that his
daughter made for him.



Pictures by Tom, N4TL

Monthly In-Person RARS Gathering, October 28, 2025

Ridge Road Baptist Church, at [2011 Ridge Road, Raleigh](#)

The meeting starts at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall, but we start setting up at 6:00 pm, and you are welcome to bring your own ham radio equipment and projects to demonstrate, show off, or just work on with other like-minded hams -- we have plenty of tables. You might also find sources of coax, connectors, zip cord, Powerpoles®, and whatnot.



Miscellaneous picture taken at the gathering



FT8 and indoor antenna demo

Monthly In-Person RARS Gathering, October 28, 2025



Paul KO4PZA, bought this new 250 foot roll of RG-214 at an estate sale in Fuquay Varina for less than \$10



Miscellaneous pictures taken at the gathering

Testing at the RARS Gathering

October 28, 2025

While we had ten pre-registrations, only seven individuals showed up for the exam session. The weather forecast or some other factor may have caused the others to not show up. We don't care because the seven who showed up got what they came for and two got something extra; they took and passed both the Technician and General license exams. Of course, now we are waiting for the government to reopen and we have to get past the logjam of applicants that are sitting waiting to be processed. The VEs in attendance were Julie Royster, KT4JR; Dennis Keith, NC4DK; Joe Haggerty, N4BJH; Stan Disbrow, W2CK; and me, Richard Hall, KR4LH.

Richard KR4LH

Full Name	Call Sign	Full Name	Call Sign
Andrew Brown	NOCALL	John Honeycutt	N8ZU
Barry Wheeler	K9IUT	Julie Royster	KT4JTR
Bill Beerman	NOCALL	Kim Johnson	KZ4UN
Bill Berzinskas	WW1H	Lawrence Reilly	KR4BGL
Billy Janke	KE4VNC	Michael Johnson	KZ4LY
Brad Bazemore	KK4PWJ	Mike Joondeph	N1JDW
Brantley West	K4CBW	Mike Kerley	KO4PAS
Charles Swindell	WB4DCM	Nancy Torborg	KB2TNR
Daniel Berzinskas	KQ4GOB	Neal Atlow	NOCALL
Dennis Keith	NC4DK	Norman Lewis	AC4XF
Denny Oestreich	KO4IBL	Patrick Hannon	K3PMH
Doug Price	NOCALL	Richard Hall	KR4LH
Doug Wall	N3LTV	Robert McCoy	NOCALL
Eric Hedden	NOCALL	Steffen Beyme	KZ4QN
Fin Gold	NC4FG	Tadd Torborg	KA2DEW
Gabe Everhart	NOCALL	Tim Thurber	WX4TIM
Gillian Zech	NOCALL	Tom Lewis	N4TL
Joe Haggerty	N4BJH	Tony O'Connor	K1OC
Joe Spratt	KR4DIN	Waleed Jabber	WY5L

39 People attended the October Gathering

November Portable Operating Group - Falls Lake Dam

Hi all,

The next outing for the RARS Portable Operating Group will be this coming Saturday, November 8th from 1-3pm at the Falls Lake Dam where we'll participate in Parks on the Air (POTA) program. The weather forecast looks very good! We'll meet at the scenic turnaround on the north side of the dam. Limited parking spots are available at the activation site. Other parking options are listed below in case the good weather draws crowds. Also see the attached screenshot.

POTA spot: 35.943547884839326, -78.58198285725797

Parking option 1 lat/long: 35.94010613821074, -78.58063740053194

Parking option 2 lat/long: 35.93923315037703, -78.57573298133455

We will have a GOTA (get on the air) station for anyone new to ham radio or the HF bands. If you plan to bring an HF radio, please drop me a note and specify what bands you can operate. I'll plan to bring band pass filters. Multiband radios are good for minimizing interference.

As always, no license or club affiliation required, only a passing interest in radio, communications, or electrons. Kids and family are welcome to join. I hope to see you there!

-bw/K4CBW

Brantley West
cbwest@gmail.com

[RARS | Portable Operating Group](#)

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Amateur Radio License Exam at JARSFEST 16 Nov 2025

Ladies and gentlemen,

JARSFEST is coming quickly on 16 November at the American Legion complex in Benson, NC. If you were planning to upgrade or get a new license, please take this time to register at hamstudy.org. This will allow us to prepare your test materials in advance so that as you come in, you can quickly be seated and take your exam and then go spend all your money on all that cool stuff people brought for you.

Registering in advance will get you seated and tested much quicker.

Don't let the government shut down, prevents you from registering. You can register with or without an FRN at this time. If you do not have an FRN simply add 10 zeros (0000000000) In lieu of a proper FRN. We will provide you instructions during the exam session on how that will be worked out when the government opens back up.

If you have any questions please contact Mark Gibson, N4MQU, at markgibson6822@gmail.com or Richard Spargur, K3UI, at cqcqdek3ui@gmail.com.

Richard Spargur

K3UI



The poster for JARSFEST 2025 is a rectangular graphic with a black border. At the top left is a logo of a radio tower with the call letters 'JARS' and the dates 'NOV 16' and 'NOV 25'. To its right is the text '36th Annual'. The main title 'JARSFEST 2025' is in large, bold, black letters. To the right of the title is the text 'ARRL Sanctioned Hamfest' and the ARRL logo. Below the title, the date 'SUN. NOV. 16' and time '8:00 A.M. TO 1:30 P.M.' are on the left, and 'AMER. LEGION COMPLEX' is on the right. To the right of the complex name is the address '605 N. Wall Street BENSON, NC 27504'. Below this, the registration fees are listed: 'Adv. Reg. \$9.00 — At Door \$10.00 — Child (Under 16) Free, With Adult'. At the bottom, a rounded rectangle contains the text 'Talk-In On 147.270 + 600'.

36th Annual JARSFEST 2025 ARRL Sanctioned Hamfest

SUN. NOV. 16 8:00 A.M. TO 1:30 P.M. AMER. LEGION COMPLEX 605 N. Wall Street BENSON, NC 27504

Adv. Reg. \$9.00 — At Door \$10.00 — Child (Under 16) Free, With Adult

Talk-In On 147.270 + 600

<https://www.rars.org>

RARS Member Birthdays

Gilberto	WP4TGK	11/
Tim	KC1TWR	11/01
Luke	WX4AA	11/02
John	WB4UFO	11/02
David	K1DHH	11/03
Ed	KE4YEM	11/03
Jim	KR4CXY	11/03
J Trent	KQ4GAM	11/05
Carroll	KD4JH	11/07
John	N8ZU	11/08
David	KN8DAP	11/08
Lynn	W9CLF	11/09
Sean	KR4CXZ	11/11
Rich	NC4EN	11/11
John	K4TOO	11/11
Mike	KN4LHB	11/12
Steven	KE4QBH	11/12
Glenn	NC4NC	11/16
Beth	N2IVG	11/18
Rolf	K8SL	11/19
Rob	KO4HUI	11/19
Donna	KM4WRP	11/20
Mark	WD4KSE	11/21
Cat	KM4MDT	11/21
Laura	KG4WQT	11/24
Terri	N4ZUD	11/25
Diana	K4NCD	11/26
Doug	N3LTV	11/26
Jeremy	KO4DYF	11/29
Dave	KE7UJX	11/29

RARS New Members

Rohn Daughtry	KD4HCT
Brian Cullinan	KR4GYQ
Bob McCoy	Waiting
Doug Price	Waiting
Sandy Price	Waiting

October 2025 RARS Net Report

31 2m nets: 376 checkins,
765 minutes duration
4 6m nets: 43 checkins,
83 minutes duration

Julie Royster, KT4JR,
RARS net manager

A Portable Satellite Station is Coming!

Brantley West K4CBW

On October 24th, the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society received a grant from Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC) for \$14,065 to assemble a Space Communications Outreach Portable Ground Station. This station will be used in support of new and existing outreach opportunities to demonstrate and engage the public in the thrill of space-based communications. The grant was written by John Brier K4EB, Carl Davis W8WZ, and Brantley West K4CBW. The club received letters in support of the grant from the Magnet Coordinator of Conn Elementary School, the Deputy Scout Executive of our local Scouting America (formerly Boy Scouts of America) council, and Senior Administrator for STEM Magnet Programs in the Wake County Public School System.

This grant comes at a perfect time as RARS prepares to support the upcoming Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) contact at Conn Elementary School in late January. Receiving this grant means that club members won't need to remove permanently-installed antenna structures, feed lines, control cables, and radios in order to support this and other events.

Equipment procurement, assembly, and testing will take place this calendar year. If you're interested in getting trained on station operation, please reach out to John Brier K4EB at johnbrier@gmail.com



Deepest Sympathies



Christopher Mark Smith N3CS

July 21, 1958 – September 21, 2025

A transfer of \$50 has been made to the RARS / Dick Bitner Youth Education fund in memory of Chris Smith N3CS (July 21, 1958 – September 21, 2025)

[Christopher Smith Obituary \(1958 - 2025\) - Raleigh, NC - Darien Times](#)

MEMBER PROFILE, NEW CALL ??

Greg Seamster, KE4PAX reminded me that each member can update their own profile on the RARS website. To change your call sign or address, etc., go to

[For Members Only/Member Profile.](#)

73 Tom, N4TL

<https://www.rars.org>

RARS Membership Status / Profile Update

Note: If your RARS membership is current, you will be able to use the following link to verify your expiration date and update your membership profile.

<https://www.rars.org/userprofile.php>.

The following link can be used if you need to renew your membership.

http://www.rars.org/membership_renewal.php.

The RARS membership year ended June 30, 2025. Is your membership current?

Membership Year - The RARS membership year is July 1 to June 30.

Current yearly membership fees:

Regular Member	\$18 per year
Reduced Senior or Full-Time Student Member	\$12 per year
Associate (non-licensed) Member	\$ 9 per year
Family Member	\$ 5 per year

Note: You have the option to renew your membership for multiple years.

Membership Dues can be paid on-line via PayPal to "raleigh_ars@earthlink.net", or mailed to the RARS Treasurer. Note: A PayPal account is not needed to make a Credit Card payment via PayPal.

Greg Seamster
RARS Treasurer
1405 Leanne Court
Raleigh, NC 27606

Note: RARS is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Donations as well as membership dues are tax deductible.

Bipartisan Bill about Amateur antennas

ARRL Launches Nationwide Grassroots Campaign to Pass Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act

Any Amateur, ARRL member or not, can send a letter to the government to ask them to pass this bill.

You can send one at this link, <https://send-a-letter.org/hoa/>

More information here [HOA-ENLetterWithQR.pdf](#)

73 Tom N4TL

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB, October 25-26, 2025

Jim Jordan, K4QPL; Wayne Starnes, KU4V; Eric Wagner, NR4O; Daryl Olson, WT3K, operated from the Turks & Caicos Islands using the call VP5M. They made 6,651 contacts in a 48-hour period. Come to the next meeting to hear about operating from there.

Mark your calendars!

50th Charlotte Antique Wireless Meet March 26 to 28, 2026

It's Official!!!!!!

Everyone is welcome to come and help us celebrate 50 years of the Carolinas Chapter of the Antique Wireless Association (CC-AWA) at this year's Charlotte Conference. March 26, 27, & 28, 2026

Still at the Airport Sheraton near the intersection of I-85 and Bill Graham Road

Also for the first time in maybe 10 years the International Crypto Symposium Group (Enigmas etc. that is) will again be meeting concurrently at the Sheraton at the same time - it will be interesting to see what all they bring and discuss.

Mark your calendars!

Brian kn4r

<https://cc-awa.blub/cc-awa>

[\(20+\) Carolinas Chapter of the Antique Wireless Association \(CC-AWA\) | Facebook](#)

1945 Electric Viewtone Television

Copied from CC-AWA Facebook. Thanks to Brian Harrison and the CC-AWA for the image.



A woman with a Viewtone television featuring a 7-inch screen at a New York department store in 1945. This set, retailing for \$100, was considered the first moderately priced receiver produced in quantity at the time.

\$100 in 1945 is equivalent to approximately \$1,800 in 2025 in terms of purchasing power

Click here to go to a [Wikipedia](#) entry for Television. Mechanical TV was first in the 1930s and before. After WWII many companies worked on electronic TV.

RARS Classifieds

Copied from <https://www.rars.org/classifieds.php>

The items below were listed within the last 30 days on the RARS website.
Check the RARS Classified List on the RARS website regularly for new items.

Yaesu Musen FLdx-400 Transmitter

Posted November 3rd, 2025 by: N2XZF

Contact: [N2XZF](mailto:n2xzf@radio@gmail.com)

n2xzf.radio@gmail.com

Yaesu Musen FLdx-400 Transmitter

I believe this is what was known as the transmitter part of the Yaesu, "Coffin Twins", or maybe the "Chrome Coffin Twins"

Listed as "parts, or not working", but it appears all tubes light

It is a little dusty, but it looks like it was never owned by a smoker

The panel protective plastic wasn't ever removed, as can be seen in the photos, but it looks really nice underneath, and if you do remove it, it should look stunning!

\$100.00

Pick up at a DFMA, or OCRA meeting, also connect me for other options

FS: Hammarlund HQ-129X Receiver

Posted November 1st, 2025 by: [W4BOH](#)

Contact: infomet@embargo.com

The classic!

Looks OK.

Come test it in Hillsborough.

\$110

RARS Classifieds continued

items for sale

Posted October 31st, 2025 by: N4TL

Contact: [N4TL](#)

Boston Acoustics Receptor radio. Model 60A AM FM Radio receiver. Powerful room filling sound. Table radio with clock and alarm. \$60

Radio Shack Realistic DX-390 Shortwave with AM, FM and AC power adapter. \$40.

RF Concepts rfc2-317 VHF power amplifier. 170 watts out with 30 watts of drive. Requires 12 DC power. Includes a 5-foot long DX power cord that has an Anderson power pole connector. \$200

Lafayette radio solid-state HA-600A communications receiver. Five bands, 150 KHz to 400 kHz. 0.55 MHz to 30 Mhz. AM, CW & SSB. Requires and external speaker and antenna. 120 VAC. The manual is easy to find online. \$30 contact me on email.
Contact me via email

FS: SPE Expert 1.3K-FA Solid State amp

Posted October 28th, 2025 by: [W4BOH](#)

Contact: infomet@embarqmail.com

SPE Expert 1.3K-FA Solid State 1.8 – 50 MHz amplifier. Built-in power supply and automatic antenna tuner. Total weight 20.9 lbs. This amp is in excellent condition and has always been in a non-smoking environment. Original box and manual included. Pictures available by request. \$3000.00

FS: Heathkit Apache

Posted October 26th, 2025 by: [W4BOH](#)

Contact: infomet@embarqmail.com

Good looker, not tested.
Come see in Hillsborough.
\$100

RARS Classifieds continued

Hy Gain T2X Tail Twister Rotor & Controller

Posted October 25th, 2025 by: [AD4GX](#)

Contact: kalatchum@att.net

I have a Refurbished and checked out HyGain T2X Tail Twister Rotor and control box for sale. Rotor is designed for large antennas with 20 sq ft wind load capacity! Only asking \$500 for both Rotor & controller! Contact Ken QRZ (AD4GX)

Ham Radio Gear

Posted October 20th, 2025 by: K4HF

Contact: [K4HF](#)

k4hf953@yahoo.com

1. MFJ 939I 160 to 10 meter 200 Watt Autotuner. Matches 6 thru 1600 ohms. With cables and manual. Very Good condx. \$145
2. ICOM IC-7600 160 - 6 Mtr 100 Watt Transceiver, power cord w/APP conn, hand mike, manual. Excellent condx. \$775

Thanks - Chuck



Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

October 7, 2025

7:00 PM on Zoom

- 1) President Fin Gold NC4FG called the meeting to order at 7 pm. Those present were: Fin Gold NC4FG, Chuck Till K4RGN, Julie Royster KT4JR, Tony O'Connor K1OC, Nancy Torborg KB2TNR, Richard Hall KR4LH, Tom Lewis N4TL, Tadd Torborg KA2DEW, Brantley West K4CBW, Denny Oestreich KO4IBL, Greg Seamster KE4PAX, Jeremy Lindsley K2HJX, and John Hollowell K4JAH. Josh Kurland KR4BTW was also present as a visitor.
- 2) Quorum Call – President Gold asked secretary Julie Royster if a quorum was achieved, and she confirmed a quorum present.
- 3) Approval of Minutes from the August 2025 Board Meeting
President Gold asked for a motion to approve the August board meeting minutes. The motion was made, seconded, and approved.
- 4) Old Business
 - a) Nominating Committee Update - Chuck Till, K4RGN
Committee chair Chuck Till presented the final committee report. Nominees will be presented to the club members at the October club meeting. Chuck moved that the Board accept the nominees as suggested in the committee report. The motion was seconded and approved.
- 5) New Business
 - a) Proposed club letter to Congress about the HOA bill - Chuck Till, K4RGN
Chuck Till described the importance of writing Congress regarding the need to support the ARRL initiative (the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act) which would grant homeowners on HOAs the same rights to install amateur radio antennas on their property as other homeowners can. Chuck moved that RARS send a letter supporting this bill. The motion was seconded and approved. Chuck will draft a letter on behalf of the club. He urged all RARS members to write letters as well.
- 6) Officer's Reports
 - a) Vice-President's Report – Chuck Till K4RGN
Programs are currently lined up through March 2026.

RARS Board of Directors Meeting minutes continued

- b) Treasurer's Report – Greg Seamster KE4PAX
RARS currency has 585 voting members, but this number will drop if some members fail to renew by October 15. Renewals are coming in.
- c) Secretary's Report – Julie Royster KT4JR
The minutes are up to date.

7) Committee Reports:

- a) Net Manager Julie Royster, KT4JR
Nets continue as usual.
- b) Public Service Director Jeremy Lindsley, K2HJX
It has been a fantastic public service season, The final event will occur this Saturday in Rougemont. There has been a tremendous volunteer turnout. Next year's season begins in March.
- c) Education Director Denny Oestreich, KO4IBL
There were 20 students in the last training class. Denny has sent out a request for feedback, but none has been received yet. Denny has some written input for next Ed director plus some materials for new person.
- d) FM Repeater Chair John Hollowell, K4JAH
We have conducted a transmission test from the roof of the Eastern building today on 2m and on 440. We probably want to repeat this again to learn more about noise. We got useful range data in various directions.
- e) Club License Trustees Tom Lewis, N4TL
No changes
- f) Exciter Editor Tom Lewis, N4TL
The Exciter is ready to be published, but we could add information from Denny about the class. Tom will add Greg's information about renewals, and how members can verify and update their member information. There is a gray area regarding whether members who did not renew by the June 30 renewal date are still eligible to vote, even though they are not dropped from the roll for nonpayment of dues until October 15. Fin Gold suggested considering this issue with other possible bylaws changes.
- g) RARS VE Coordinators Richard Hall, KR4LH
License testees can get FRNs once CORES comes back up after the government shutdown. If

RARS Board of Directors Meeting minutes continued

they take a test prior to government startup, then the VE coordinator will hold their test results. Currently we have 5 applicants for testing this month.

- h) RARS Webmaster Tony O'Connor, K1OC
All is well with the website.

- i) Youth Chairman Brantley West, K4CBW
Conn Elementary School did receive approval of their grant proposal to make an ARISS contact with the astronauts on the international space station. Their equipment plan was approved. It is likely that the time frame will be late January for the contact. We are hoping to hear soon whether we got a grant to purchase equipment toward ARISS for 2026. We have also applied for a grant from ARDC to purchase equipment for this and other satellite contacts.

- j) At Large Director Tadd Torborg, KA2DEW
Nothing to report

- k) RARSfest Chair Nancy Torborg, KB2TNR
Nancy has started tentative planning regarding pricing structure. Fairgrounds raised our rent by \$1400. We will have to raise our prices as a result. The price increases will probably affect booths more, but ticket prices may also be increased. We see that some people in the flea market are accessing power without paying for it. The fair power police observe this and charge RARS for the people who "stole" power.

- 8) Other reports or questions
Brantley thinks a good idea for the club to publish on the website the policies the Board goes by to make decisions. Fin says this is a good idea.

- 9) Other comments from Board Members
Greg Seamster says there are some outreach ideas on the Discord that we should consider, like science museum or astronomy days. Fin Gold agrees.

- 10) Adjournment: President Gold asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made and seconded and approved, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Royster KT4JR, RARS Secretary

RARS General Membership Meeting minutes

October 14, 2025, 7:30 PM

1. Call to Order and Welcome – Fin Gold, NC4FG

President Gold called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. He reminded participants of a few tips about using Zoom.

2. Opening Comments, Fin Gold, NC4FG

- Reminder for membership renewal. President Gold stated that after the dues deadline the next day (October 15) those who have not paid dues will be dropped from membership.
- Club loaner program: President Gold urged members to take advantage of the radio loaner program RARS maintains to allow members to borrow a radio, antenna, etc. for a period of one month.
- Upcoming events: The RARS monthly dinner will be October 21.

The RARS Gathering will be October 28. The State Fair October 16-26 will include a ham radio booth and additional volunteers are needed to tell fairgoers about amateur radio. JARS-Fest in Benson is scheduled for November 16, and there is a signup to help out at this neighboring club's fest (see the President's notes in the Exciter).

Introduction of New members, Visitors, and Upgrades

Two visitors, Nick and Virginia, announced their intentions to become licensed soon.

3. Vice President's Report or announcements – Chuck Till, K4RGN

- RARS club support for the HOA bills: VP Till described how RARS has sent a letter in support of the ARRL initiative to prevent HOAs from disallowing amateur radio antennas. He urged all members to go to the ARRL website to generate their own letters to their own congressional representatives in support of the bill. See this link: <https://www.arrl.org/current-legislation> You do not have to be a member of ARRL to participate in this letter-writing campaign.
- Next month's program will be a presentation by Jim Jordan K4QPL, the owner of a ham vacation rental home in the Caribbean islands, about his experiences as a landlord of a shack used by other hams. In December Tom Lewis N4TL will present a program about operating awards. Additional programs are planned through March, but if anyone has an idea regarding

RARS General Membership Meeting minutes continued

programs for following months, please contact Chuck Till.

4. Secretary's Report or announcements – Julie Royster, KT4JR
The minutes are up to date.
5. Treasurer's Report or announcements – Greg Seamster, KE4PAX
No report.
6. Specific Announcements or Reports from Directors
 - Announcements by Alan Pitegoff, AB4OZ
The Winston-Salem hamfest will be October 18. The free AB4OZ fest will be October 25. JARSfest will be held November 16.
 - The next RARS Board Meeting will be at 7 PM Tuesday, November 4, 2025 on Zoom. Contact Fin NC4FG for details on joining the meeting.
7. Presentation of the RARS Board approved list of nominations for 2026 Board positions - Fin Gold, NC4FG

President Gold announced the slate of nominees recommended by the nominating committee and approved by the RARS board. A vote will be held at the November meeting, when nominations may also be made from the floor. The current nominees are as follows:

President - Tony O'Connor K1OC

Secretary - Josh Kurland KR4BTW

Webmaster - Will Gwaltney WA4GK

Public Service Coordinator - Jeremy Lindsley K2HJX

Repeater Coordinator - John Hollowell K4JAH

RARSfest chair - Nancy Torborg KB2TNR

Exciter editor - Tom Lewis N4TL

Trustee Coordinator - Bob Starkenburg W4TTX

Net Manager - Julie Royster KT4JR

ARRL Liaison - Chuck Littlewood K4HF

RARS General Membership Meeting minutes continued

VE Coordinator - Richard Hall KR4LH

NCQSO Party Chair - Marty Young W4MY

At-Large Director - Alan Pitegoff AB4OZ

At-Large Director - Tadd Torborg KA2DEW

At-Large Director - Ryan Reed N7RYN

8. Quorum Call and Approval of September Club Meeting Minutes

President Gold asked Secretary Julie Royster if a quorum had been achieved. She stated that we did not have a quorum present, so the vote to approve minutes was not held.

9. Door Prize Drawing and picture for the Exciter - Chuck Till, K4RGN

Chuck supervised the drawing for door prizes, and this month's winners were: Mike Barts N4GU, Jerry Agliata W2GLA, and Robert McCoy (no call).

10. Program introduced by VP Chuck Till, K4RGN

This evening's program was:

High Voltage Electronics and Tesla Coils

Presented by RARS Member Alex Kowalewski KR4ESQ

Alex answered questions about his fascinating project and played a video demonstration of the Tesla coil playing a tune.

11. Adjournment following program.

President Gold asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made, seconded, and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Royster KT4JR, RARS Secretary

Radio Adventures in the Highlands of Scotland Gang aft a-gley

Bob K4RLC & MM/K4RLC

But Mousie, thou art no thy lane,

In proving *foresight* may be vain:

The best-laid schemes o' *mice* an' *men*,

Gang aft a-gley,

An' lea'e us nought but grief an' pain,

For promis'd joy. Robbie Burns, National Bard of Scotland "To a Mousie" 1785



Figure 1 Scotland Tour Map-Courtesy Insight Vacations

Thanks to my friend Vince, VE6LK, I learned the value of hyperlinks for adding additional content, if the reader is interested. For this, you will need to Control+Click. Hope you enjoy more content about Scotland.

Visiting the Scottish Highlands has been a bucket list trip for many years. My YL Alanna K4AAC has family in Scotland, and it's dear to her heart. Our other out-of-the US trips have been small

groups or some we planned on our own, but this was with a larger group in a very heavily scheduled trip with luggage restrictions, so I was worried about being more efficacious with equipment choices. This trip is not one we could've done on our own: it was called “the Country Roads of Scotland” and truly took us through tiny one lane back roads, maybe a cart path or two, and staying in small, old hotels in mostly out of the way towns. I'm not sure how Johnny, our driver, drove the bus so fearless, but he was a local.

Nevertheless, as the famous Scottish poet and national hero Robbie Burns says, “the best laid plans of mice and men gang aft a-gley”.

Per recommendations of friends, I had fully kitted out the Elecraft KX2 with accessories for portable and field operations. This included a tripod for a small vertical; a clamp mount; a SO-TA Beams push up pole with the AD8HK random wire antenna; and I even condescended to carrying a microphone. Just as a backup, I took the Elecraft KH1, which I'd kitted out in a small Molle Utility Pouch, added a neck strap from an old duffle bag, and carried it like my camera around my neck, always and immediately accessible. As it turned out, due to the craziness of trip logistics, the KX2 was never unpacked but the KH1 was with me continuously, ready for immediate activation!



Figure 2 Livans Tactical Molle Pouch 7 X 5 X 4.5" – Entire kit with all accessories weighs just 2.0 Lbs

We arrived in [Edinburgh](#), the ancient capital city of Scotland, early Saturday morning their time, sleep deprived but ready to go. The formal trip did not start until late that afternoon, so we left most of our luggage at our hotel in the [Leith](#) section and took the wonderful nearby tram to Princess Street in downtown Edinburgh. We had been in Edinburgh before and sort of knew our way around. It's a wee uphill walk to the [Royal Mile](#), but well worth it. As some know, [Edinburgh Castle](#) was built on the top of a very ancient volcano, a wonderful place for a medieval fortress. At one end of the Royal Mile is Edinburgh Castle and a "Scottish Mile" down the alluvial trail is [Holyrood Palace](#). These are in the Old Town Section, with some parts over 1,000 years old, and now a UNESCO World Heritage designation and a POTA site.

August is a wonderful time weather-wise to visit Edinburgh, but due to the International Fringe and Art festivals held then, an extra half million people visit Edinburgh during August! However, August is the only month that the [Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo](#) is presented, a once-in-a-lifetime event and well worth the crowds. The first day, Alanna and I could barely walk on the Royal Mile due its being so crowded. We found a space on the wall in front of [St. Giles Cathedral](#), the Royal Cathedral of Scotland, built in 1124. I pulled out the KH1, extended the whip and carefully placed the counterpoise, and started sending CQ. Unfortunately, that location was extremely noisy, both electrically and due to all the crowds. Nevertheless, on 20 CW, I lit up several German stations on the Reverse Beacon. After a while of trying to make contacts, and fending off curious tourists, we packed up and wandered around looking at the various street performers and entertainers, including musicians, magicians, axe jugglers and sword swallowers :-). That night, our group went to see the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo at Edinburgh Palace, a wonderful exhibition of military bagpipers and drummers in Highland clan tartans from throughout Scotland. The Tattoo also features other military performers from around the world including Poland, the Ukraine and the US Air Force Drill Team with fixed bayonets.



Figure 3 St. Giles Cathedral on the Royal Mile



Right: KH1 on St Giles steps

The next day our group had tickets for the formal Edinburgh Castle visit. We enjoyed the beauty, history and majesty of this iconic Castle. I had the KH1 and again tried to set up, this time in front of [Mons Meg](#), the huge medieval canon that was the doomsday weapon of its time. Built in 1447, Mons Meg is 14 ft long, weighs over 15,000 lbs, and shoots cannon balls that weigh 386 lbs; as such, it makes an excellent antenna counterpoise. The Cannoneer in medieval dress was initially curious, then became not happy with me so I packed up and moved on. I found out quickly that the only time and the only way to get radio time was to defer from some of the planned or optional activities of the tour group, or to operate before or after these activities. However, some days our tour started very early and did not end til Midnight or so.



Figure 4: Edinburgh Castle



Right: Mons Meg Canon makes an excellent counterpoise

The tour headed north with a brief visit to the Royal and Ancient Golf Course at St. Andrews, then through incredibly beautiful Midland countryside. Along the way we stopped for a lovely High Tea at Atholl Palace, then visited the quaint village of [Pitlochry](#). The tour director trashed the little town and said we should instead pay to go tour [Blair Castle](#). This Castle did not seem very interesting to us, would have cost more money, and I really wanted some more radio time. I'm really glad we chose Pitlochry, as Alanna and I enjoyed exploring the quaint town, and I found an ideal location to set up the KH1 at an old stone Baptist church at the edge of town. In addition to a Russian, the German stations came through. It was like there was a pipeline from the Scottish Highlands into Germany. I really appreciated their kindness and patience in working a weak signal station such as mine.

I also felt at home in Pitlochry, as there were two backpacking stores there as well as a John Muir Trust. John Muir was born in Scotland in 1838 but spent most of his adult life in the US, where he founded the Sierra Club and helped found the National Park System. I spent time talking with the volunteer at the John Muir Trust, who explained that there were national cycling trails (Scotland has over 2,000 miles of [bicycling trails](#) crisscrossing the country) and [hiking trails](#) like the [Rob Roy Trail](#) (following the trail of Scotland's most famous outlaw) that came through there, as well as an entryway to the huge [Cairngorms National Park](#). The backpacker in me really wanted to stay and spend time in the park, but that was not possible. Eventually, the tour bus came and got us and took us to the parking area on the grounds of Blair Castle. I was happy that they had a children's playground where I could go to set up the KH1 and work the Germans again. It seemed fitting to be by the kid's swing set playing radio.

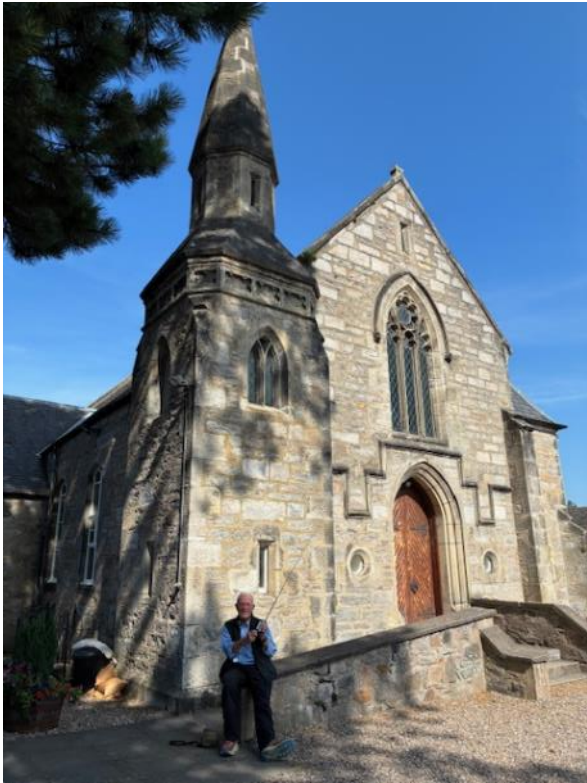


Figure 5 Pitlochry Baptist Church



Right: Children's Playground at Blair Castle

The next day we went to [Inverness](#), the capital of the Highlands with wonderful history and habitation dating back to 5800 BC. We stayed at the Kingsmill, an elegant, historic hotel with excellent golf courses. Our room had an outside patio where I set up the KH1 while sipping coffee. Wayne of Elecraft had recommended keeping the radials elevated, so I draped them over the shrubs and again had contact with the Germans on 20CW. The next morning before leaving, I tried the 40 m coil for the AX-1 antenna, but no joy.



Figure 6 Misty Op at Inverness Gardens

Several of the places we visited were POTA sites, but some were also historical sites for the Scots where I did not feel comfortable playing radio. This included [Culloden Battlefield](#) near Inverness, where the Brits defeated the Jacobite Highlanders fighting for Scottish independence in 1746 in a brutal battle. It is a sacred site much like our Arlington Cemetery. Stones are placed on the battlefield marking mass graves of the Scottish Clans who died on the moor there. One stone is so famous it had to be roped off – it is for the Fraser Clan who fought and died at Culloden and whose history was made famous in the quasi-historical Netflix series [Outlander](#).



Figure 7 Culloden Moor Battlefield with Clan Stones - Clan MacIntosh on the left & Clan Fraser on the right

I was really looking forward to our trip to [Thurso](#), the most northern city in Scotland, because from there we were to take the ferry to the [Orkney Islands](#) about an hour and a half north across the Pentland Firth. Several sites on the Orkney's were POTA sites that had never been activated, and I had hoped to be the first. They also were designated UNESCO World Heritage Sites, much like the Royal Mile. Orkney has an incredible history, with Neolithic civilization going back to 4000 BC. We first went to the [Ring of Brodgar](#), the third largest stone circle in the UK, and erected over 4,000 years ago. Its original purpose is still unknown, whether it was for sacrifices, solstice ceremonies, or burial rituals. Nevertheless, it was incredible to be there in this 300 meter diameter circle of stones, each standing about 15 ft tall and weighing 20-30 tons apiece. The archaeologists who have access to the inside of the circle have performed experiments on the resonant audio frequency with strange acoustics within the circle. I walked as close as I could to the stones, and began sending CQ on 20 CW. It is hard to explain, but the received audio from the radio was the strangest sound I had ever heard, resonating in a very eerie tone as was the audio of the side tone while sending. So there seems to be a Radio Frequency (RF) anomaly in addition to Audio Frequency (AF) anomaly. Truthfully, I got a little spooked from this RF/AF experience. Then, while I was working a Spaniard doing POTA in Poland, a fellow tour member somehow stepped on the counterpoise that I had thrown off the trail surrounding the Stones. This poor lady's previous two husbands were Ham radio operators, but she was still interested in my radio. The Gerber tool I had was TSA friendly and was excellent for everything except it was not a good wire stripper, so I couldn't immediately repair the counterpoise. While I was trying to strip the wire with my teeth, our tour director said it was time to leave for [Scara Brae](#), a Neolithic community also dating from around 3000 BC built on the west side of the island on the beach. Built from flat stones, Scara Brae has incredible architecture still being studied today, with a group of around 10 subter-

neolithic houses having complete stone furniture, stone beds and storage shelves, and a fire pit as well as possibly indoor toilets! There was a sacred quality to Skara Brae, and after the Ring of Brodgar experience, I was a little spooked so did not try the radio.



Figure 8 Ring of Brodgar Standing Stones & KH1 Right: Skara Brae dwellings connected by tunnels

After our brief stays at the Ring of Brodgar and Skara Brae, the bus brought us back to downtown Kirkwall, the largest city in Orkney, and parked in front of the [St. Magnus Cathedral](#), whose construction was begun by the Vikings in 1137. As nice as the church was, I told the local guide I wanted to visit the world famous [Orkney Wireless Museum](#). He looked puzzled and said it was a bit of a walk, but gave Alanna and me directions. A magical place for a radio enthusiast, the walk to the Radio Museum was well worth it. Behind its gray stone façade, is a wonderful collection of radios, from the original crystal sets to military sets used by the Royal Air Force and Navy, as Orkney was a strategic military facility in both World Wars. I felt like a kid in a candy shop. The ham radio station there is episodically activated, but unfortunately not that day. Alanna and I bought souvenirs for us and radio friends back home. Thankfully for Alanna, extra time allowed us to explore St. Magnus Cathedral when we were done at the Wireless Museum.

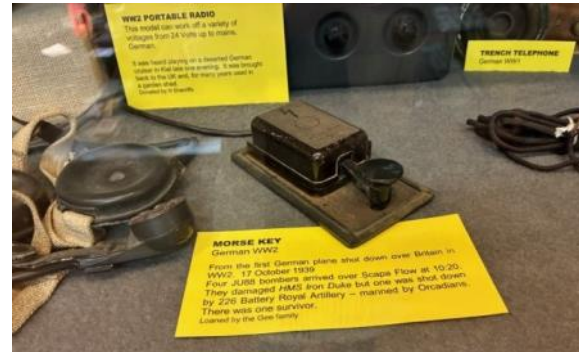


Figure 9 Orkney Wireless Museum Bottom Right: St. Magnus Cathedral in Kirkwall circa 1137

After the trip went as far north in Scotland as possible, we came down the west side going to the [Isle of Skye](#) in the Inner Hebrides. Unfortunately, no radio but Alanna and I enjoyed the mountains and glens on Skye, as well as the seaport town of Ullapool, where they have great

homemade ice cream and jewelry with a local theme and even bits of heather. The [Old Man of Storr](#), another geologic wonder made from millions of years of natural erosion of a volcano leaving an evocative basalt column, was another well worth it wee walk.

The rest of the Highlands trip was a long ride through Glencoe that ended in Glasgow. However, there were brief stops to visit the World War II [Commando Memorial](#) at the foot of [Ben Nevis](#), the highest mountain in the UK. There was also a stop at Glen Coe National Nature Preserve, home of miles of hiking trails and 8 Munros (name given to mountains above 3,000 ft, including SOTA peaks, named by Sir Hugh Munro in 1891). Again, I really wanted to take time to climb the mountains and activate, but no extra time. Before the bus pushed on to Glasgow, we were able to take an amazing boat ride, treated with coffee and whiskey, on the Bonnie bonnie banks of [Loch Lomond](#), the longest loch (lake) in Scotland.



Figure 10: WW2 Commando Memorial



Right: Ben Nevis, highest peak in UK

Downtown [Glasgow](#) without festivals is like an industrial Edinburg without the charm. It's super crowded with lots of tourists but no real place for radio. In fact, part of the City Centre was blocked off, as they were filming the latest Spiderman movie. Alanna still has family in Scotland and we had a lovely dinner with three generations of her family near Glasgow Royal Concert Hall. The next day was the time to fly out to Iceland. The bus dropped us off early at the Glasgow Airport. With time to kill before our flight to [Reykjavik Iceland](#), I walked out in a courtyard

and set up the KH1 hoping I would not violate any of the airport rules. Unfortunately, it was super electrically noisy there and I was unable to make any contacts.

All in all, Alanna and I felt super at home in the [Scottish Highlands](#), a wonderfully beautiful place where everything looks like a storybook or movie (cf James Bond “Skyfall”). The Highlands are also a geologist’s playground. Of interest from a geologic perspective, the same geologic strata and mountain range – the Caledonia Orogeny - that forms the Scottish Highlands runs to Cape Breton Nova Scotia and then to the Appalachian mountains of Western North Carolina! This commonality can help explain the migration patterns of Scots to Cape Breton and Western NC. The topic of vast Scottish migration came up at a [Ceilidh](#) (a family-style gathering with bagpipes, singing, story-telling and whiskey) we attended at Old Smiddy Inn, an 1832 blacksmith shop converted to a small pub in Thrumster. The proprietor, Dave, was happy to hear I was from North Carolina. We talked about how the largest gathering of the Scots outside of Scotland is at the [Highland Games](#) held on Grandfather Mountain, NC in July of every year (both a POTA & SOTA site). I fondly recall attending the Games a few years ago, as McCrae Meadows on Grandfather Mountain, site of the Games, has a quarter-mile track that is the finish line for those of us who ran the Grandfather Mountain Marathon.



Figure 11: Brother & Sister Bagpipers at Old Smiddy Inn in Thrumster



Right: Tennent, Scotland's finest beer

We don't mean to be overly critical of the Country Roads tour, as we now know the places we want to return to and spend more time in the Highlands, especially the Orkney Islands. We could not have learned of these wonderful out-of-the-way places without Insight Vacations; Taib, our nice Tour Director; and Johnny, our fearless driver. In fact, Taib was very positive about amateur radio, recalling that as a child in a remote village in Croatia, the only way he and his Mom could talk to their soldier Dad was through amateur radio. Unfortunately, his Dad was killed fighting for their freedom against Yugoslavia. We understand that Taib had to keep the tour on a strict timeline. Like most of us, I have more hobbies than radio, so radio had to share time for me with [geology](#), photography and [archeology](#).

Next adventure on the Bucket List is to fly back to Edinburgh, take the Caledonia Sleeper from Waverly Station to Inverness, and enjoy a monthly rental of a cottage in northeast Scotland, overlooking the North Sea and having a medieval castle within walking distance. It will be easy to activate the many POTA sites (and some SOTA sites) in the area, as well as feeling at home in the Highlands. Plus, from there, we can easily return to the Orkney Islands where I can conduct HF & UHF Radio Frequency experiments at the Neolithic Ring of Brodgar. The ancient standing stones altered the RF and I want to know more about this. I hope to obtain permission from the archaeologists to stand inside the circle and transmit CW HF. In retrospect, why wouldn't standing inside a 4,000 year old ring of huge standing stones, used for mystical purposes, alter RF?



Figure 12: Orkney Islands new POTA sites waiting to be activated

Thanks again very much to all who weighed in on the equipment choices. I also want to thank my YL Alanna K4AAC, a wee lass and also a RARS member, as she was able to run interference for me with the tour director to get radio time. Alanna also had a great eye for places to operate the KH1 and helped with setup quickly during the limited time we had in each place.

The KX2 is still my favorite portable radio. But, on this trip, the KH1 excelled in its flexibility, portability, and immediate availability. All I can say in retrospect is that it is good to have lots of backup plans and equipment redundancy, as you never know what really will happen, whether near or far from home, because the best laid plans "...Gang aft a-gley".



Figure 13: Alanna enjoying local ice cream in Ullapool



Right: Great Scottish breakfast of eggs & Haggis

Equipment List:

- Elecraft KX2 Shack in a Box
- Elecraft AX1 antenna with 40 meter extender coil
- Elecraft KH1 Edgewood Package
- [N6ARA Tiny Paddle \(with KH1 adaptor\)](#)
- K6ARK Capacitance Touch Paddle
- [Tuftein KH1 Right angle antenna adaptor with stand](#)
- [Tuftein KH-1 Antenna Angle Adaptor](#)
- [JVC Sport Earbuds](#)
- [Gerber utility tool](#)
- [LIVANS Tactical Molle Utility Pouch](#) (with additional neck strap)
- [Pro Audio KX33 Power Supply](#)
- [AD8HK 40-10 4:1 Random Wire](#)

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